

# What's New in the MPDC

JULY 30, 2001

## PHOTO RADAR WARNING PERIOD WINDING DOWN; CITATIONS TO BE ISSUED BEGINNING AUGUST 6

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**T**housands of motorists caught speeding by photo enforcement cameras in the District of Columbia are receiving warning notices this month as part of an ongoing campaign by the Metropolitan Police Department to educate drivers about the dangers of speeding and the Department's plans to crack down on this unsafe behavior using new technology. The photo radar speeding reduction program was announced July 2 by Chief Ramsey and traffic safety, government and community leaders. Since then, the MPDC has been deploying mobile photo radar units in locations throughout the District as part of a month-long warning period. The registered owners of vehicles caught speeding during the month of July are receiving

*For complete information about DC's automated speed enforcement program, including diagrams on how the technology works, visit:*

*[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org)  
(Click on Services & Programs)*

*While the MPDC will be targeting 60 enforcement zones during the initial deployment of photo radar, the Department will be able to accommodate additional locations in the future. To recommend a location where photo radar could help reduce chronic speeding, e-mail the MPDC at:*

*[mpdc\\_org@excite.com](mailto:mpdc_org@excite.com)*

warning notices only. Beginning in early August, however, the District will issue actual Notices of Infraction to motorists caught speeding in approximately 60 enforcement zones that are part of the initial photo radar deployment. (Note that the warning period, originally scheduled to end August 1, is being extended, with ticketing scheduled to begin August 6.) While photo-enforced violations do not carry points in DC, the fines for speeding range from \$30 to \$200 per violation. Read the latest news release on the photo radar program and the results of the warning period to data at:

[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org) (Click on News)

## ROC-CENTRAL, NORTH CAPITOL COMMUNITY TEAM UP FOR SUMMER YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION

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**D**riven by a sharp, 17-percent decrease in robberies, the number of serious crimes reported in DC fell nearly 5 percent in June compared with the same month last year, according to unofficial, preliminary figures released by the MPDC. For the first six months of the year, crime in the District is down nearly 4 percent when compared with the first half of 2000, the preliminary statistics show. Homicides have shown the sharpest decrease so far this year: down 30.6 percent, from 124 in 2000 to 86 in 2001. If the current trend continues, DC will end the year with fewer than 200 homicides for the first time since 1986, when there were 196 murders in the city. All crime categories declined during the first six months of 2001, with the exception of robbery and arson. Both of these crimes declined during June, however. Burglaries, which rose slightly in June, have nonetheless fallen more than 18 percent so far this year, according to the preliminary numbers. See the latest crime statistics at:

*Preliminary figures show that crime is down in four of the seven police districts through the first months of the year. See how your district is faring by clicking on:*

*[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org)  
(Click on Crime Statistics)*

[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org) (Click on Crime Statistics)

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SET FOR AUGUST 7

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National Night Out against crime is August 7<sup>th</sup> this year, and the MPDC and our partners in community policing are planning events across DC designed to show criminals that our neighborhoods are strong, organized and fighting back. The NNO kickoff event will take place at 5 pm at Miner Elementary School, 601 15th Street, NE. Located in PSA 512, Miner Elementary has been a focus of community efforts to address a variety of crime and disorder problems. Their successes will be highlighted at the NNO kickoff event. Watch the MPDC Website for complete information on NNO events and activities in DC. For more information about National Night Out, visit the National Association of Town Watch at:

*Communities in ROC-East and ROC-Central have not waited for National Night Out to begin their summer community-building activities. For more information on the ongoing daily events there, click on the following link:*

*[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org) (Click on News)*

[www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org)

## NEW SERGEANTS, POLICE OFFICERS SWORN IN

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In ceremonies Friday at the US Department of Commerce in NW, Chief Ramsey administered the oath of office to two groups of MPDC members: a class of 29 recently promoted sergeants, and a group of 22 new police officers, 20 of them experienced officers recruited from other law enforcement agencies. Both the new sergeants and the new officers are being assigned to the seven police districts to support the implementation and supervision of Policing for Prevention efforts in the community.

*For information about career opportunities in the MPDC, including the lateral-hire program, go to:*

*[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org)  
(Click on Career Opportunities)*

## MPDC RELEASES ANNUAL REPORT ON POLICE USE OF DEADLY FORCE

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As part of its continuing efforts to keep DC residents and other stakeholders informed about the MPDC's actions in the area of police use of deadly force, the Department's Force Investigation Team has published an annual report detailing deadly force incidents during the year 2000 as well as other recent trends. The report shows the MPDC has experienced dramatic declines in deadly force injuries and firearm discharges in recent years. For example, injuries as a result of the use of deadly force have declined 78% over the past two years, and overall firearm discharges have dropped 48% since 1997. Detailed information is available in the report, which is available in PDF format through the following link:

[www.mpd.org](http://www.mpd.org) (Click on Publications)

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*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kmorison\\_mpd@excite.com](mailto:kmorison_mpd@excite.com).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**WWW.MPDC.ORG**